

orig. The Minutemen
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Inquiry on Right-Wing Group Ordered in Jersey

TRENTON, Oct. 22 (AP)—Attorney General Arthur J. Sills of New Jersey ordered an investigation today into what he said was a well armed, underground, right-wing organization.

He released copies of a confidential bulletin, purportedly circulated within the organization, which contended that the group was a national one, but contained no indication of its name.

Mr. Sills said he believed the group "is similar to one known as the Minutemen," an organization of civilians who contend they are preparing to fight as guerrillas in the event of a Communist takeover of this country.

Mr. Sills said the bulletin had been given to him by "an extremely reliable source." "I have every reason to believe the document is authentic," he said, "but I can't fully disclose my reasons."

He said he has notified United States Attorney General Nicholas deB. Katzenbach of the bulletin, as well as the state police.

The bulletin says that the organization, in anticipation of the day when "pro-American, patriotic organizations . . . will have been hounded out of existence," has laid the groundwork for an underground operation.

Within a month, the document said, all records of membership will have been destroyed. Intelligence records "on enemy personnel" are being distributed to leaders of the organization and "stockpiles of materials are being broken up into small caches and well hidden," the bulletin said.

Organization Is Described as Well-Armed and Like Minutemen

The bulletin advises members of the organization to purchase a .22-caliber rifle for surrender, instead of more powerful weapons, in the event that a gun control bill proposed by Gov. Richard J. Hughes is enacted.

"Wrap, seal and bury or hide all other of your firearms," the bulletin continues, "remembering to put at least 100 rounds of ammunition away with each gun." It goes on to urge members not to try "any door-step heroics by shooting it out with those who come for your weapon."

Mr. Sills had originally proposed a bill that would require all new guns to be registered. Opposition from gun dealers and sportsmen led the Hughes administration to reduce the requirements to a ban on the sale of guns to members of subversive organizations, alcoholics, former inmates of mental institutions, convicted criminals and narcotics addicts.

The bulletin also urged members of the organization not to shoot National Guardsmen. "Many of them are already in our organization," it said.

The bulletin expressed a welcome for "our new friends in Maryland and Delaware. It also mentions a Michigan branch. Mr. Sills said he had sent copies of the bulletin to the Attorneys General in those states.

In its advice on firearms, the

bulletin says that "over 2,000 portable, disposable, one shoot flame-throwers have been taken from Ft. Dix weapon storage depots. Apparently, security at that location has been very lax. One wonders where these units have gone and where they may turn up next."

Mr. Sills said the statements appeared to him to be a veiled contention by the organization that it had stolen the weapons.

Founded in 1959

The Minutemen were founded in 1959 by Robert B. de Pugh, who operates a pharmaceutical manufacturing business in Norborne, Mo., as a guerrilla force of civilians.

Mr. de Pugh, the 41-year-old national director of the organization, said in 1963 that the Minutemen had 25,000 members, but many investigators think the figure is inflated.

Members drill with rifles and heavy weapons, and make lists of "Communist sympathizers" in their communities.

In February, 1964, the Department of Justice said it had no evidence to indicate that the organization had violated Federal laws, but it has been excoriated in many state legislatures and on the floor of Congress.